

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
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FFP:GFRAZIER (PHONE)
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P 022223Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, HA

SUBJECT: DROUGHT IN HAITI: PROPOSED FY 1977 TITLE I
INCREASE

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 01129

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON FOOD
SUPPLY OUTLOOK CONTAINED REFTEL. WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH
REQUEST FOR TITLE I CORN AND RICE ON AN URGENT BASIS AND
EXPECT TO SUBMIT IT TO THE INTERAGENCY STAFF COMMITTEE AT
ITS NEXT MEETING APRIL 7. WILL KEEP POST INFORMED.

2. IN VIEW OF APPARENT WIDESPREAD IMPACT OF DROUGHT IN
HAITI AND REPORTS WE ARE RECEIVING OF HUNGER IN THE
COUNTRYSIDE, REQUEST SOONEST EMBASSY'S ESTIMATES OF NUM-
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BERS OF RURAL AND URBAN POPULATION CURRENTLY SUFFERING
SUBSTANTIAL DETERIORATION OF THEIR NORMAL DIET AS A
RESULT OF DROUGHT, TOGETHER WITH ESTIMATE OF NUMBER
EXPECTED TO BENEFIT FROM INCREASED TITLE I AND RECENTLY
APPROVED INCREASED TITLE II SHIPMENTS.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN SUPPLY FOR OVERALL
ASSESSMENT OF DROUGHT SITUATION AND FOOD NEEDS:

A. ARE THERE SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF PERSONS SUFFERING
HUNGER OR SEVERE HARDSHIP WHOSE RELIANCE ON SUB-
SISTENCE FARMING AND/OR EXTREMELY LOW INCOME LEVEL
PRECLUDE THEIR PURCHASING ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS
THROUGH THE COMMERCIAL SYSTEM?

B. WHAT IS YOUR ESTIMATE OF THE CAPACITY OF THE EXISTING
MARKET SYSTEM TO PROVIDE PROMPT NATIONWIDE DISTRIBUTION
AT AFFORDABLE PRICES FOR THE COMMODITIES REQUESTED?
COULD THE SYSTEM HANDLE MORE THAN REQUESTED?

C. IF NORMAL RAINS BEGIN IN MAY, WILL THERE BE CON-
TINUING NEEDS FOR REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR?

D. WHICH REGIONS OF HAITI ARE SEVERELY AFFECTED BY
DROUGHT?

4. WE UNDERSTAND DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED IN
1975 DROUGHT AND SENSITIVITIES OF GOH. NONETHELESS,
1975 EFFORT TO ALLEVIATE FAMINE WAS BASICALLY SUCCESSFUL.
IF WIDESPREAD SEVERE HUNGER OR FAMINE IS THREATENING IN
HAITI, EXPANDED RELIEF EFFORT THROUGH TITLE II COM-
MODITIES SHOULD NOT BE PRECLUDED OWING TO CURRENT
LIMITATION OF DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.

5. CURRENT ESTIMATED COSTS TOTAL 3.5 MILLION DOLLARS
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FOR 20,000 TONS EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN CORN AND RICE.
ASSUME COUNTERPART FUNDS AND EXCISE TAXES FOR ADDITIONAL
COMMODITIES WOULD BE HANDLED IN SAME WAY AS FOR EXISTING
AGREEMENT. ADVISE IF OTHER ARRANGEMENTS EXPECTED.

6. THIS IS A JOINT STATE - AID MESSAGE.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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